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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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National Intelligence Officers

13 JUL 1976

Dr. Alexander H. Flax
Institute for Defense Analyses
400 Army-Navy Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Dr. Flax:

This letter and attachment will provide some additional details relating to our earlier conversations concerning Chris Nolan's participation in an exercise being undertaken by the DCI on behalf of the President's Foreign Intelligence Board (PFIAB).

As you may know, some members of PFIAB have long felt that National Estimates often focus so strongly on the "most likely" future developments that alternatives -- often of the high risk sort -- are submerged. This year the DCI has agreed to conduct an experiment in competitive analysis on selected strategic topics whereby independent teams will be established to look specifically at alternative interpretations of the Soviet threat. The team leaders and team members are being selected in direct consultation with the Estimates Evaluation Committee of PFIAB. I have been designated by Mr. Bush to act as coordinator, manager, and focal point for the teams doing the competitive analysis. Additional details are provided in the attachment.

One of the topics selected for study concerns Soviet low altitude air defense capabilities. Mr. Charles W. Lerch, Jr., of Systems Planning Corporation will be the team leader and for that reason the work will be done at the SPC facility in Rosslyn. Chris Nolan was specifically recommended by Dr. John S. Foster for participation in the exercise, and Mr. Lerch is anxious to have him on the team. The work will result in a written team report under a contract between CIA and SPC.

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I am hopeful that your Institute can agree to the use of Mr. Nolan's considerable and recognized talents in this effort. If so, the arrangements for his work should be made directly between IDA and SPC.

Sincerely,

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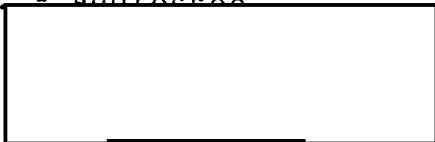


(John A. Paisley
NIO Coordinator, Competitive Analyses

Attachment:
As stated

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NIO/CA/JAPaisley [redacted] (13 July 1976)

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